

Remarks

Currently pending are claims 4 and 5. Claim 4 has been amended to include specific printing methods disclosed in paragraph 1 on page 18 and paragraph 2 on page 19 of the present application. No new matter has been added. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration by the Examiner, and advancement of the application to allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bujard et al. (US 5,766,335) in view of Rathschlag (US 2004/0101671) and claim 5 as being unpatentable over Bujard et al. in view of Rathschlag and further in view of Ramaswami et al. (US 6,315,384) or Yamazaki et al. (US 2002/00443662). Applicants traverse these rejections for the following reasons.

Applicants presently claimed invention is directed to a process for dyeing or printing textile fibre materials by applying to the textile fibre materials an aqueous dye bath or printing paste comprising a gloss pigment A or B wherein the textile fibre material is dyed or printed by an ink-jet printing process, chromojet process, transfer printing process or thermoprinting process.

Applicants agree with the Examiner that Bujard et al. teach gloss pigments according to component A of the present invention and the use of such gloss pigments in dyeing or printing plastic materials and paints. However, Bujard et al. does not teach or suggest the use of gloss pigments in the dyeing or printing of textile fibre materials.


The Examiner has added Rathschlag for the purpose of teaching "a process in which an effect pigment-containing printing ink is applied to a textile substrate [0022]." *See Office Communication mailed September 5, 2008 at 3.*

Applicants respectfully submit Rathschlag does teach a printing process. However, Rathschlag teaches an offset printing process which is a process generally used in manufacturing print products made of paper or cardboard, although Rathschlag does mention fabric as print material. Rathschlag's offset printing process includes the steps of applying: i) an offset printing ink; ii) a primer layer; and iii) a UV-curable varnish onto the print material. Rathschlag's further teaches its offset printing process is characterized by including platelet-shaped effect pigments in the primer. Thus, not only is Rathschlag's offset printing process different than an ink-jet printing process, chromojet process, transfer printing process or thermoprinting process as presently claimed, Rathschlag's process adds the effect pigments to a primer which is subsequently coated over the already applied offset printing ink.

Thus, a person skilled in the art of textile dyeing/printing, when reading Bujard et al. and Rathschlag as whole, would not arrive at Applicants claimed process. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn. Since claim 4 is not obvious, all claims depending on claim 4 are also not obvious, and therefore Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claim 5 also be withdrawn.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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